



**CITY OF TORRINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2020 Regular Meeting**

1. Call to Order: In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, this meeting is being held remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform and is open for public viewing using the login information provided on the posted agenda.

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm

2. Roll Call & Announcements: Members present: Tomasz Kalinowski, Dan McGuinness, Robert DeMallie, Jim Fedorich, Christine Altman & staff Jeremy Leifert.

Members Absent: None

Members of the public: No members of the public logged into the remote meeting.

3. Minutes:
 - a. January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting: **Motion to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2020 regular meeting as presented was made by T. Kalinowski and seconded by J. Fedorich. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - b. January 19, 2020 Site Walk: **Motion to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2020 site walk as presented was made by D. McGuinness and seconded by R. DeMallie. Motion passed unanimously. T. Kalinowski abstained.**
 - c. January 21, 2020 Special Meeting: **Motion to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2020 special meeting as presented was made by T. Kalinowski and seconded by J. Fedorich. Motion passed unanimously.**
4. New Business: No new business on the agenda
5. Old Business:
 - a. Earth Day 50 cleanup postponement discussion

Discussion ensued on the impacts of COVID-19 on public gatherings and the inability for the City to host the cleanup event at Coe Park. The consensus of the Commission is to recommend postponement of the event to the date of September 19, 2020 to coincide with the fall "Clean Up the World" event that is already scheduled. Discussions will continue leading up to the fall cleanup, but the advertisement as the "Earth Day 50" cleanup will likely be used for this event.

- b. Continued discussion/schedule for open space parcel inventory and data collection

Concerns were presented by commission members and staff about going to do inspections as groups, so large parcel reviews will be temporarily put on hold. After discussion, consensus is to continue to review smaller parcels that can be reviewed by single staff or commission members. J. Leifert will drive by the smaller parcels to confirm access and contact the commission members to assign review parcels.

c. 2020 DEEP Open Space Acquisition Grant Round discussion

The commission continued discussion on the potential of applying for state land acquisition grant money to for acquisition of the "Leoni" parcel off of Winsted Road near Harris/Machuga Drive. Discussions ensued on the amount of money in the open space budget and how to most wisely spend this money, which is specifically reserved for open space protection and education. Concerns were raised about developing a list of potential target acquisition properties to confirm that the Leoni property is the best use of this money. Discussions also ensued on costs of an appraisal and the current asking price for the property. Staff will communicate with the property owner and decide on beginning the grant application prior to the next meeting.

6. Communications:

- a. Record of meeting – February 13, 2020 (no quorum) – Distributed to the commission for review. No formal acceptance of the meeting record was needed since no quorum was present at this meeting and no decisions were made.
- b. Record of meeting – March 12, 2020 (no quorum) – Distributed to the commission for review. No formal acceptance of the meeting record was needed since no quorum was present at this meeting and no decisions were made.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by chair C. Altman at 7:12 PM.

 4-23-20
Jeremy Neifert, Asst. City Planner
Staff to Conservation Commission
Cc: City Clerk, Mayor's Office